MARVEL

FAWKES
LARROCA
OBACK

014

THE WOLVERINE IS DEAD. HIS LEGACY REMAINS.

LOGAN MET HIS END WHILE DESTROYING A REVAMPED VERSION OF THE WEAPON X PROJECT LOCATED IN A FACILITY KNOWN AS PARADISE.

LOGAN COULD NOT ESCAPE, BUT OTHERS DID--FIVE TEST SUBJECTS, ALL GRANTED STRANGE NEW POWERS. NONE WERE EVER INTENDED TO SURVIVE OUTSIDE THE PROGRAM, AND ALL HAVE BEEN INFUSED WITH A TICKING CLOCK IN THEIR DNA THAT WILL KILL THEM UNLESS IT CAN BE DEACTIVATED.

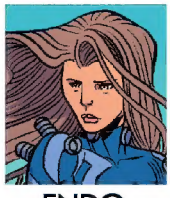
THESE LOST WEAPONS KIDNAPPED A GROUP OF FIVE OF WOLVERINE'S DEADLIEST ASSOCIATES IN THE HOPE THAT THEIR HEALING FACTORS MIGHT HOLD THE ANSWER TO SAVING THE TEST SUBJECTS' LIVES. THE REFUGEES FROM PARADISE HOLD SIGNIFICANT LEVERAGE OVER THE FIVE KILLERS--SECRET "CONTROL WORDS" THAT CAN MANIPULATE, SEDATE OR EVEN KILL EACH OF THEM.

DAKEN HAS BEEN PLOTTING REVENGE ON SIPHON, THE MONSTER WHO STOLE HIS HEALING FACTOR, WHICH LED TO THE LOSS OF DAKEN'S ARM AND EYE. X-23, MEANWHILE, HAS BEEN DEALING WITH LOGAN'S DEATH, RECONCILING THE STRUGGLES OF HER PAST WITH THE INCREASING RESPONSIBILITY SHE FEELS FOR HER FUTURE. AND PRESIDING OVER ALL OF THESE PLAYERS, NONE OTHER THAN MYSTIQUE--WHOSE MOTIVES, AS PER USUAL, ARE UNKNOWN.

PARADISE

SHOGUN

NEURO

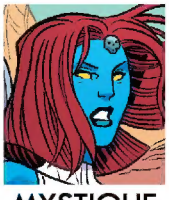

ENDO

SKEL

JUNK

FANTOMELLE

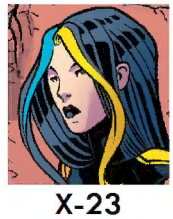
THE WOLVERINES


MYSTIQUE

SABRETOOTH

LADY DEATHSTRIKE

DAKEN


X-23

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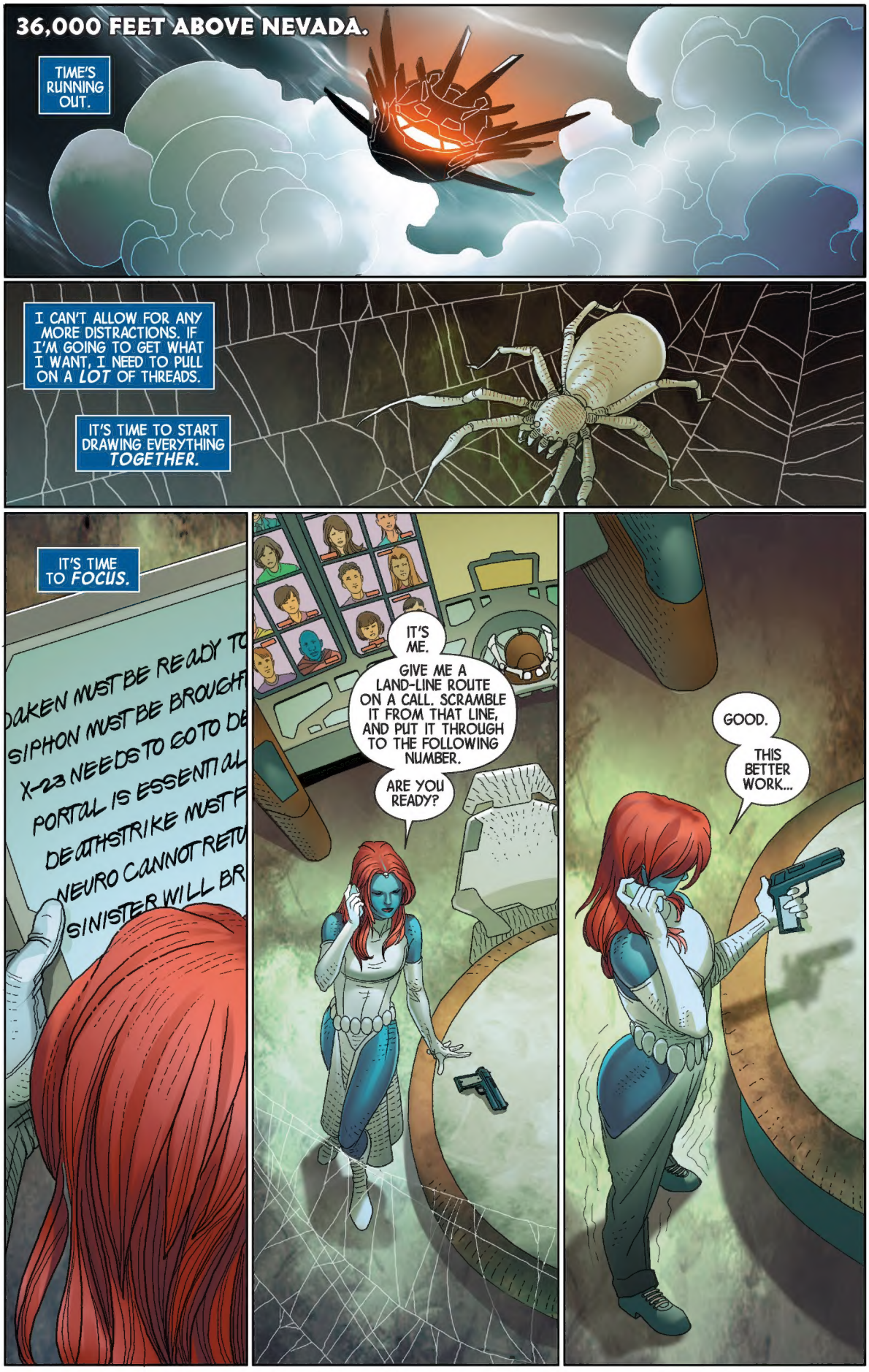
36,000 FEET ABOVE NEVADA.
TIME'S RUNNING OUT.
I CAN'T ALLOW FOR ANY MORE DISTRACTIONS. IF I'M GOING TO GET WHAT I WANT, I NEED TO PULL ON A LOT OF THREADS.
IT'S TIME TO START DRAWING EVERYTHING TOGETHER.
IT'S TIME TO FOCUS.
IT'S ME.
GIVE ME A LAND-LINE ROUTE ON A CALL. SCRAMBLE IT FROM THAT LINE, AND PUT IT THROUGH TO THE FOLLOWING NUMBER.
ARE YOU READY?
GOOD.
THIS BETTER WORK...

THIS BETTER BE GOOD.
YOU STILL HAVE FRIENDS ON THE WEST COAST, DAKEN.
WE HAVE A LEAD ON YOUR TARGET. THE ONE YOU PUT THE WORD OUT ON. WE FRONTED THE REWARD YOU ASKED FOR, SO I KNEW SOMEONE WOULD COME THROUGH...
WHICH TARGET?
THE ONE CALLED SIPHON. THE ONE WHO TOOK YOUR HEALING FACTOR.
WHERE?
IT WAS SHIGERU'S IDEA TO CATCH HIM BY TRACKING HEALERS. FIND A CLUSTER OF THEM AND LET SIPHON COME TO US...
...WE WIDENED THE SEARCH, HAD EYES ON EVERY CREATURE THAT CAN REPAIR ITSELF...THEN WE LET RUMORS OF ONE LOCATION SLIP...
WHERE?!
D-DEATH VALLEY. I'M SENDING YOU THE COORDINATES. WE SPOTTED HIM GOING INTO THE PLACE TWO MINUTES AGO.
Y-YOU'LL FIND HIM THERE. I-IN AN ENCLAVE OF AMERICAN KYUUKETSUKI...
CRACK

MYSTIQUE. MYSTIQUE, ARE YOU THERE?
YES, DAKEN...
BIP
...WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
WHERE ARE WE RIGHT NOW?
HMM? WE'RE JUST PASSING OVER LAS VEGAS. HEADING EAST. I HAVE TO--
I'M GOING OUT.
UHH...WE NEED YOU HERE TO--
NO DEBATE.
BUT WE--
I'LL CALL FOR A PICKUP WHEN I'M DONE.
ONE STEAMBOAT, TWO STEAMBOAT...
MYSTIQUE? WHAT...IT'S FIVE-THIRTY IN THE MORNING.
X-23. IT'S DAKEN...

"...I THINK HE'S ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING STUPID."
HEY, DAKEN!

DAMN IT! WHAT DO I-- DAMN IT!
MYSTIQUE! DID YOU DO THIS?
NO. RECORDS SHOW DAKEN TOOK A CALL IN HIS ROOM TWO MINUTES AGO.
IT WAS SCRAMBLED. I CAN RUN A TRACE...
DON'T BOTHER.
I'M GOING AFTER HIM.
YOU DO THAT.
SABRETOOTH. SHOGUN. DEATHSTRIKE. JUNK.
SOMETHING'S COME UP. MEET ME ON THE BRIDGE.

UNNNGH!

NNNNNNAAA
AAAA--
WHAAM
...LAURA? I HEARD YOU SHOUTING--
--WHAT ARE YOU--
SMAK
YOU IDIOT!
YOU'VE BARELY GOTTEN OUT OF BED FOR WEEKS! NOW YOU SUDDENLY GET UP AND JUMP OUT OF THE SHIP?
I'M JUST--
I CAN GUESS WHAT YOU'RE DOING. YOU FOUND SIPHON, DIDN'T YOU? THAT'S JUST ABOUT ALL THAT COULD GET YOU OFF YOUR ASS, I THINK.
YOU SHOULDN'T DO THIS ALONE.
WHY? YOU THINK I CAN'T HANDLE IT? THIS IS MY FIGHT, OKAY? IT'S MINE.
AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WANT TO SEE IT.
YEAH? A FIGHT? NOT REVENGE? OR SUICIDE...
...THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN ACTING LATELY, I'M NOT SURE.
HEY, LOOK. HERE COMES A RIDE.

HEY!
HNNNGHHH!
I WAS GOING TO ASK HIM FOR A LIFT!
SURE YOU WERE.
MAYBE WE COULD HAVE SOME SANDWICHES AND COOKIES, GET TO KNOW HIM, TOO.
GET IN IF YOU'RE GETTING IN...

"...IF WE KEEP THE PEDAL DOWN, WE SHOULD BE THERE BY SUNRISE."
"WHERE? WHERE ARE WE GOING, DAKEN?"
"INTO A TRAP...
SKRAAAK
"...BUT NOT A TRAP FOR US..."
WHAT THE HELL?

...BLADE?

THIS'S JUST ONE OF THOSE PARTIES...
...SUCKERS JUST KEEP SHOWING UP.
YOU ALL JUST LET ME TAKE CARE OF THIS THING AND I'LL GET TO YOU NEXT.
NO!
HE'S MINE!
RRRRAGH!
WHUMP
BLADE. I'M X-23. ONE OF THE X-MEN.
WE MET IN SAN FRANCISCO, WHEN THE VAMPIRE NATION THING WAS GOING DOWN.
YEAH, I REMEMBER YOU.
THAT THING--HE'S CALLED SIPHON.
HE STEALS HEALING POWERS. FEEDS ON THEM. LEAVES THE PEOPLE HE DRAINS TO DIE...
...DAKEN HAS A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH HIM.
SO DO I, BABY...

"...HE CRASHED MY PARTY."
WHAT DO YOU WANT, MYSTIQUE?
HEY, WHERE'RE LAURA AND DAKEN? YOU DIDN'T NEED TO WAKE THEM UP?
THEY STEPPED OUT. SO LISTEN, I HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE.

I--
MYSTIQUE!
CRACK

YOU SEND AN ASSASSIN AFTER ME? ME? HE TRIED TO SABOTAGE MY ARMOR, SET IT UP TO SUFFOCATE ME.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE PLAYING AT, BUT IT ONLY TOOK SECONDS TO GET THE TRUTH OUT OF HIM!
P-PORTAL...

WHACKK

HRRR!
SHRAAAK
TAK
LET ME GUESS. YOU WERE ABOUT TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WERE GOING TO HAVE A VISITOR, AND THAT WE NEED HIM FOR SOMETHING.
HOW'D YOU KNOW, SHOGUN?
I DON'T LIKE THE WAY YOU OPERATE, MYSTIQUE. YOU'RE A LIAR AND A MANIPULATOR.
I HAVE HALF A MIND TO KILL YOU RIGHT NOW, JUST FOR SAFETY'S SAKE.
MMM.
IF ONLY YOU COULD DO IT WITH JUST A WORD.
I HOPE YOU DON'T NEED THIS GUY BECAUSE HE'S AN ACE FIGHTER OR NOTHIN'.
HE'S LUCKY HE'S STILL BREATHIN'.
WE'RE THE LUCKY ONES, SABRETOOTH...

"...WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO FOR US."
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
COME ON!
"KNOW YOUR ENEMY, KNOW HIS SWORD."
YOU QUOTE THE BOOK OF FIVE RINGS AT ME, SIPHON?
RRAAAGH!
WHAT THE--
WHO IS THIS GUY?
THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION.
DR. CORNELIUS DID THIS TO ME. I AM WHAT HE MADE ME--A SIPHON. WHEN I'M HUNGRY, THAT'S ALL I KNOW. BUT WHEN I'VE FED...
...I START TO REMEMBER WHAT I USED TO BE.

I WAS A TEACHER, I THINK.
NOW THAT I AM FULLY CHARGED, I CAN SPEAK WITH YOU. REASON WITH YOU.
DAKEN, LET ME--
YOU STAY OUT OF THIS, LAURA, OR I'LL CUT YOU DOWN, TOO. THIS IS FOR ME TO DO.
I'M NOT SORRY I STOLE YOUR HEALING ENERGY, DAKEN.
I WAS TOLD YOU'RE A MASS MURDERER. THE WORLD WILL BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT YOU.
HYAHHH!
URRRGH!
IF...IF YOU HURT ME, I WILL ONLY USE STOLEN ENERGY TO HEAL MYSELF...
...BUT THEN I WILL LOSE MY MIND AGAIN. BECOME A MONSTER.
THAT'S OKAY...
...MONSTERS ARE MY SPECIALITY.
WAY I SEE IT, THERE'S ME, THERE'S X-23 HERE...
...AND THERE'S WHICHEVER ONE OF YOU TWO IS LEFT STANDING AFTER THIS FIGHT.

HEH.
ALL RIGHT. LET IT BE A DUEL, THEN. BEFORE THIS DESCENDS INTO SOMETHING SHAMEFUL.
DAKEN AND I WILL DO THIS PROPERLY. AGREED?
AGREED.
THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
DAKEN, YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION TO--
JUST-- LAURA, JUST STOP.
LET ME DO THIS. IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO, LET ME HAVE THIS.
THIS SCUM STOLE MY LIFE.
ALL I'VE BEEN DOING THESE PAST WEEKS, ALL I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IS HOW I WANT TO TEAR HIM APART BEFORE I GO.
I WANT HIS ARM. I WANT HIS EYE.
"THE ONLY REASON A WARRIOR IS ALIVE IS TO FIGHT."
"THE ONLY REASON A WARRIOR FIGHTS..."

"...IS TO WIN!"
THOK
WHOK
WHSSSH
WHUK
THAK
WHACK
I DIDN'T WANT TO BECOME WHAT I AM EITHER.
NONE OF US CAN ESCAPE OUR FINAL FATE. IT IS A WEB WE BLUNDER INTO...
...WE ARE FLIES TOGETHER IN IT.

CRACCCKK
RRRAGGHH!
NOT BAD, X-23. BUT YOU GOTTA CUT OFF THE HEAD...
N-NO--
SHKK
IGNORE THEM. WHO BROUGHT US HERE, TOGETHER, AT THIS TIME?
THIS WAS A TRAP FOR US BOTH.
KIYAAA!
HUP--
CRACCCK
AIIAAAAGH!
CRASH
DAKEN! NO!

LAURA. DON'T INTERFERE.
I CAN TAKE HIM.
"DO NOT FEAR DEATH." AND NOW...
SCREW THIS!
SCREW YOU!
HNNH!
AGGGH!
LAURA, NO!
SHUT UP. I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS.
IT'S STUPID.
HYAAA--
THAK
NO...
...I HAVE YOU.
I'LL TAKE YOUR HEALING POWER AWAY, TOO. MAKE YOU LIKE HIM.
CRACK

NO.
YOU WON'T. DON'T...HEH... DON'T LEAVE ME HANGING.
WE'RE NOT FINISHED HERE. LOOK. HERE I AM.
"DO NOT FEAR DEATH."
NEXT: DEATH!